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# The Buddhist Artifacts in the Puffenberger Collection

Mahmood Mohammad

Elizabethtown College, mohammadm@etown.edu

Tyler Gamble

Elizabethtown College, gamblet@etown.edu

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# The Buddhist Artifacts in the Puffenberger Collection

Tyler Gamble

Mahmood Mohammad

Advised by

Jeffery D. Long

Carol Ouimet





# Introduction

- ◊ In 2012, Dr. William Puffenberger donated his collection of artifacts to the school for professors to use in teaching as he had previously.
- ◊ These artifacts have since been on display in Nicarry 228 where they are being utilized by professors teaching in that classroom.
- ◊ In 2018, Dr. Richard Newton and Carol Costa Ouimet, along with students Amal Ismail and Hannah Ciocco.
- ◊ In 2019, students Mahmood Mohammad and Tyler Gamble, under the mentorship of Dr. Jeffery Long and Carol Costa Ouimet.



# Thesis

- ◆ The cultural variety of the religious artifacts found in the collection reflects the creative transformation of Buddhism as this tradition was carried from its point of origin in India to the rest of Asia. The main objectives of this research project are to:
- ◆ (1) continue digitizing the Puffenberger Collection into the online database by using Omek
- ◆ (2) use primary and secondary resources to identify and analyze various representations of Buddhist figures, the religious significance of these figures, and how they became part of the collection
- ◆ (3) through this process, to trace the historical transformation of Buddhism as it spread across Asia.

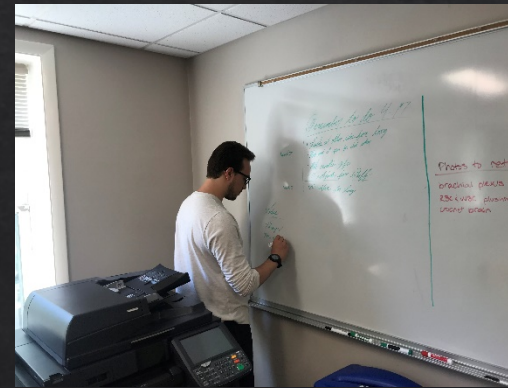
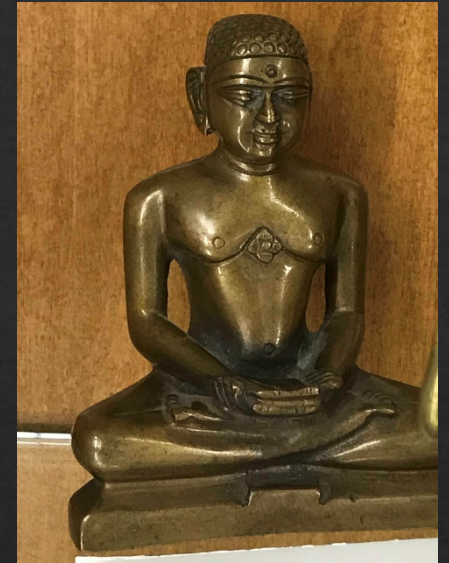


# Technology

◆ The technology that we used throughout this research project which include:

1. Nikon D3300 with a photo-booth and lighting equipment
2. Omeka.net
3. HTML and

- CSS coding
4. Soundcloud
5. Microsoft Teams
6. WordPress
7. iMovies
8. Dublin Core





# Organization of the Collection

- ◆ We chose to shift away from the World Religion Paradigm to a religious-historical model, which groups religions by taxonomy. In this model, religions all fit into certain groups based on their shared historical context and practices.





# The William V. Puffenberger Digital Collection of Religious Artifacts

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## Featured Item

### PAKISTANI ISLAMIC PRAYER HAT



A Pakistani Islamic Prayer Hat or Topi is often worn by Muslim men for prayer specifically...

#### Buddhism

- » Mahayana Buddhism
- » Theravada Buddhism
- » Vajrayana Buddhism

#### Chinese Traditional

#### Christianity

- » Greek Orthodox
- » Protestant
- » Roman Catholicism

#### Confucianism

#### Daoism

#### Hawaiian Indigenous

#### Hinduism

#### Islam

#### Jainism

#### Judaism

#### Sikhism

Hello and Welcome! This site is dedicated to the digital curation of Dr. Puffenberger's collection of religious artifacts at Elizabethtown College.



- Check out our website trailer linked above!

## Recently Added Items

### WOODEN FISH BLOCK



A wooden fish, also known as a Chinese temple block is a wooden percussion instrument most commonly associated with Mahayana Buddhism. The purpose of...

# COLLECTION

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## THE WILLIAM V. PUFFENBERGER DIGITAL COLLECTION OF ARTIFACTS





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## Abrahamic Religions

Abrahamic religion, known collectively as Abrahamism, are a group of Semitic-religion that claim descendants from the worship of the God of Abraham by the ancient Israelites. These religions are monotheistic, originating from the patriarch Abraham, a biblical figure recognized by Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others. Abrahamism spread globally in two waves, first by Christianity after it was adopted as a state religion by the Roman Empire in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and second by Islam through Islamic conquest across the Middle East and North Africa in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Together, Abrahamism has the most significant number of adherents, Christianity being the number one religion worldwide, followed by Islam. The Abrahamic beliefs also included other faiths that claim descended from the worship of the God of Abraham, which include Yazdanism, Samaritanism, Babism, Baha' I Faith, Rastafari, and the Druze faith.



## Dharmic Traditions

Dharmic religion, known as Indian religions, are traditions that originate from the Indian subcontinent. These traditions share common core beliefs, methods of worship, and related practices. The central core philosophy of Indian traditions centers around the concept of Dharma, which is a Sanskrit term means "law" or "Duty," mainly in the spiritual sense of "reality." In the development of these traditions in their travel across Asia the core belief in this natural law remained but became known by different names and ways of practice to achieve this true way differed. These dharmic religions are interrelated due to them sharing a rich history and religious text. While Dharmic traditions can be viewed as a belief system, they are known to emphasize the interconnectedness of both social and theological aspects of society.



## Indigenous Artifacts / Cultural Artifacts

Cultural traditions are the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth, artifact, or other examples from one generation to another which are indigenous to a specific culture. Every culture has its cultural norms that operate as standards, social attitudes, customs, and institutions. They tend to shape societal behavior and beliefs, which eventually leads them to become traditions. This section of the exhibit highlights cultural artifacts that play a role in daily life and their significance.





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## Featured Item

### Swastika Necklace

The symbolism of the Swastika became associated with the Nazi agenda as a symbol Aryan identity and nationalistic pride, but it was heavily skewed...



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## Featured Collection

### Puffenberger Collection

In Dr. Puffenberger's collection are artifacts that have been collected from around the world. These artifacts were collected for the purpose of...



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## Featured Exhibit

### Dharmic Traditions

Dharmic religion, known as Indian religions, are traditions that originate from the Indian subcontinent. These traditions share common core beliefs,...





# Accomplishments

- ◆ Created a new platform to host the Puffenberger collection to accommodate our shift from the World Religion Paradigm to a religious-historical model.
- ◆ Cataloged and achieved 42 religious artifacts.
- ◆ Recorded and conducted four professional interviews (See the “For Educator” page).
- ◆ Wrote a research paper titled “The Buddhist Artifacts in the Puffenberger Collection” using the resources we published on the site.

# Research

## The Pre-Iconic Phase The Post-Iconic Phase



Figure 1: Leaf from Sir Lankan Bodhi Tree in wooden box.



Figure 2: Replica of Gandhara fasting Buddha (Black stone).



# Research (Con)

- ◆ The tradition spread through two routes that later formed the two main branches of Buddhism.
- ◆ The Southern path included Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. This route adapted its artistic inspiration from Indian influences coupled with cultural and regional aesthetics. It also led to the development of Theravada Buddhism.
- ◆ The Northern path followed the Silk Road to Central Asia, China, Korea, and Japan. The Buddhist art from this route heavily influenced the development of Mahayana Buddhism.

# Research (Con)

- As Buddhism spread across Asia, it began to adapt artistic inspiration from Indian influences coupled with cultural and regional aesthetics. These local traditions were established beliefs and existing cultural structures native to the region, such as Brahmanism and various local animists cults.



Figure 3: Bronze seated Buddha, the flame of knowledge coming from the head.



Figure 4: Medium sized bronze base Buddha.



# Research (Con)

- Kamakura Daibutsu, also known as the Big Buddha. This statue is a replica of the Amida Buddha statue found in Kamakura, Japan. The sculpture characterizes Amida, which translates to infinite light and life, as a savior figure in Japanese Buddhism.



Figure 5: Green metal Kamakura Daibutsu (Big Buddha).



# Questions?

Student Researchers:

- ◆ Mahmood Mohammad: [mohammadm@etown.edu](mailto:mohammadm@etown.edu)
- ◆ Tyler Gamble: [gamblet@etown.edu](mailto:gamblet@etown.edu)

Research advisors:

- ◆ Dr. Jeffery Long: [longjd@etown.edu](mailto:longjd@etown.edu)
- ◆ Carol Ouimet: [ouimetc@etown.edu](mailto:ouimetc@etown.edu)